

Message Text

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FOR SECRETARY, SISCO, ATHERTON FROM SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EG IS PFOR

SUBJ: EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS IN GENEVA

1. I HAVE PAID COURTESY CALLS MONDAY ON GENERAL SIILASVUO, JAMES JONAH WHO IS HERE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARIES GENERAL IN NEW YORK, AND UNDER SECRETARY WINSPEARE AT THE PALAIS; MET PRIVATELY WITH GAZIT AND LATER WITH GAZIT AND SHAFIR; AND CALLED ON GENERAL MAGHDOUB AND AMBASSADOR OSMAN AT THE EGYPTIAN MISSION.

2. SIILASVUO THIS MORNING PRESENTED A DRAFT AGENDA TO THE TWO SIDES. UNLIKE THE SIGNING CEREMONY LAST WEEK WHERE THE UN FINESSED THE QUESTION OF PRECISE AUSPICES, SIILASVUO HAS PUT OUT THE AGENDA UNDER THE HEADING OF THE MILITARY WORKING GROUP.

A. THE AGENDA IS A STRAIGHTFORWARD RUNDOWN OF ISSUES DETAILED IN AGREEMENT AND ANNEX. JONAH NOTED THAT THE ONE ISSUE OF STRATEGY IS SIILASVUO'S IDEA THAT GROUP SHOULD DISCUSS SOUTHER AREA FIRST SINCE EARLY MOVES WILL TAKE PLACE THERE. EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS BOTH CONCUR IN THIS APPROACH, AND FROM MY TALKS WITH THE TWO DELEGATIONS, I FORSEE NO SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT

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OVER AGENDA TOMORROW.

B. TIMETABLE FOR TALKS PROPOSED BY SIILASVUO
HAS GROUP WORKING ON SOUTHER AREA THROUGH MORNING
SEPT 12; TURNING TO NORTHER AREA INCLUDING AERIAL
RECONNAISSANCE AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM THROUGH
SEPT 17 WITH MONDAY OFF FOR YOM KIPPUR; AND
DEVLTING SEPT 18 TO JOINT COMMISSION. THIS
LEAVES CUSHION OF FOUR DAYS FOR SLIPPAGE AND PREPARATION
OF DOCUMENTS AND MAPS BEFORE PLANNED SIGNING
SEPT 22.

3. SOVIETS HAVE NOT BEEN HEARD FROM HERE. SIILASVUO
IS TRYING TO CALL DEPUTY CHIEF OF SOVIET MISSION HERE
THIS AFTERNNON TO INFORM HIM OF TIME AND PLACE OF
MEETING TOMORROW, BUT SO FAR NO ONE AT SOVIET MISSION
IS ANSWERING HIS CALL. UN, EGYPTIANS, AND ISRAELIS
ALL SEEM SATISFIED WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT I WILL NOT
BE IN ROOM BUT WILL BE NEARBY DURING MEETINGS,
ALTHOUGH OSMAN ON "PERSONAL" BAIS WONDERED WHETHER
I COULD NOT BE IN ROOM NOW THAT FLAP OVER SOVIET
ABSENCE FROM SIGNING WAS PAST. I HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS
WITH SIILASVUO TO BE UNOBTRUSIVELY IN OFFICE
AT PALAIS AND TO RECEIVE DETAILED BRIEFINGS AFTER
MEETINGS. I WILL ALSO TOUCH BASE WITH DELEGATIONS
OFTEN ENOUGH TO MAINTAIN SENSE OF ISSUES.

4. TWO POINTS OF DIFFERENCE THAT APPEAR ON HORIZON
SO FAR ARE:

A. ISRAELIS CONTINUE TO PRESS, THOUGH NOT HARD,
TO EMPHASIZE POLITICAL CHARACTER OF MEETINGS. AS
ATHERTON REPORTED EARLIER, GAZIT IS HEAD OF DELEGATION
AND HAS URGED UN TO TRY TO PROMOTE PERSONAL INTERACTION
AT MEETINGS. EGYPTIANS AGAIN EMPHASIZED MILITARY
NATURE OF TALKS AND CHIDED ISRAELIS FOR TRYING TO
TURN ESSENTIALLY MILITARY TALKS INTO POLITICAL AFFAIR.

B. AS YOU KNOW, LITTLE HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT
OPERATIONS OF JOINT COMMISSION. MAGHDOUB IS INCLINED
TO SEE COMMISSION MEETING THROUGH IMPLEMENTATION AND
THEN LAPSING. ISRAELIS LIKELY TO PROPOSE REGULAR
MEETINGS. IN MY TALK WITH MAGHDOUB, I SUGGESTED
EGYPTIANS MIGHT WELL FIND IT USEFULLWHEN GENEVA TALKS
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ENDED TO HAVE PLACE TO TAKE PROBLEMS WHICH MIGHT
ARISE, FOR INSTANCE, WITH EGYPTIAN CIVILIANS IN
NORTH OF BUFFER ZONE, ROAD USE IN SOUTH, OR CON-
STRUCTION OF EGYPTIAN SURVEILLANCE STATION IN
CENTER. HE SEEMED PREPARED TO DEAL WITH ISSUE ON
PRAGMATIC BASIS.

5. BOTH SHARIF AND MAGHDOUB SEEM PREPARED TO WORK

TOGETHER AND BOTH NOTED THEY HAVE DONE SO SUCCESSFULLY BEFORE.
BOTH HAVE SHOWN RESTRAINED IMPATIENCE
WITH POLITICAL ELEMENTS, AND MY GUESS IS THEY WILL
GET THEIR HEADS TOGETHER OVER MAPS AND WORK FAIRLY
SMOOTHLY.

6. ONE FINAL WORK ON MECHANICS. SINCE WITHDRAWAL
IS AN ISRAELI OPERATION, ISRAELIS ARE PROVIDING
SIILASVUO WITH DRAFT PLANS ON EACH PHASE AS BASIS
FOR DISCUSSION. THUS STAFF WORK FOR TALKS IS WELL
ADVANCED AS RESULT OF ISRAELI PREPARATIONS. ABRAMS

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